

CHILD CARE PREPARED...for MRSA*

*Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus

Information for the Early Childhood Professional

BASIC INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES:

Create an environment in your facility that shows cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control practices are important. Tell parents your plan to provide a healthy environment for their child. Let parents know your policies from the start. Encourage good communication from parents about illness. Any time any child has a boil or sore, cover it and notify parent. Be a handwashing role model for adults and children in your facility.

Have policies ready concerning illness, exclusion, and infection control practices, and share them with parents from the start of a child's time with you.

Wash hands often, especially after coming into contact with any body fluids, and before touching food or faces. Use a hand sanitizer when a sink, water, and soap are unavailable, but washing with soap and water is the best!

Train all staff members in handwashing, surface cleaning, and handling of soiled materials. Keep adequate supplies ready. Include drivers and helpers in your child care in your infection control practices.

Help, show, and teach good handwashing practices to children from an early age. Use handwashing as an opportunity to sing a song, recite a rhyme, or say the alphabet!

Respect the privacy of children and their families and do not discuss information about individual children inappropriately.

ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS FOR MRSA:

It is important to know that many people, including children, may carry the MRSA bacteria on their skin, but not know it and feel completely well. With good infection control measures, the person can be around others and not pose a risk. A child with the diagnosis of MRSA may safely be in the child care setting.

The main questions to ask are: "Is the child ill?", and, "Does the child have any open sores or boils at this time?" Talk with parents regularly about any changes in the child's condition or treatment plan. Keep parents informed about any observations or concerns you have.

If a child is ill, your exclusion policies should guide you (and parent) in deciding whether the child should be in your child care with symptoms of illness.

If a child has open sores or boils, the sores must be kept securely covered while the child is moving about in the child care area. This means by layers of clothing, and/or a clean dry dressing securely attached so that the boil or sore is completely covered.

Anytime the sore or boil is exposed, when the child pulls back clothing for example, or during diaper changes, *wash hands* that have touched the sore or boil, dressings, or clothing that has touched the area. Don't forget the child's hands too. This is an important time to use soap and water, not "just" hand sanitizer. Put any soiled materials in a closed plastic bag so others will not touch.

The child with MRSA should be treated as any other child and should not be made to feel they are a hazard to others.

MRSA RESOURCES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND FREE:

Managing MRSA in Child Care:

http://healthychild.net/InSicknessandHealth.php?article_id=415

MRSA Infections in Child Care Programs

<http://www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/healthandsafety/mrsaen022309.pdf>

Resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including posters:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/>

FROM THE EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING CENTER:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/oec/ectc.html>

National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education:

<http://nrckids.org/>

Caring for Our Children, 3rd Ed.

<http://nrckids.org/CFOC3/index.html>. See Standard 7.5.10.1 Staphylococcus aureus Skin Infections including MRSA.

Resources from the American Academy of Pediatrics:

www.healthychildcare.org

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www.dhhs.ne.gov/TogetherKidsFamilies

and

http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/lifespanhealth_childcarehealthconsultation.aspx